

II. Remarks

Claims 1-12 were pending in this application and have been rejected. The present amendment adds new claim 13 and amends claims 1, 6-8 and 12 to correct minor typographical errors and to more particularly point out and clarify certain aspects of Applicants' invention. No new matter has been added by the present amendment. After this amendment, claims 1-13 will be pending.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the member is in contact with the deformed roll during the step of positioning the package. This amendment was in response to an objection that claim 6 recited "the deformer roll" which lacks proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants believe that this amendment has cured the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 6.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,471,817, issued to Baker ("Baker"). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-12 are traversed.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that packaging the deformed roll includes retaining the substantially "C" shape via contact of the deformed roll with one of the member and a retainer element used cooperatively with the member to deform the roll. The package is then positioned fully around an outer perimeter of the deformed roll including the substantially "C" shape. The one of the member and the retainer element is then removed from the deformed roll to retain the substantially "C" shape within the package. Support for this amendment may be found in paragraphs [0023] - [0026] and Figures 1-12.

Baker discloses an automatic inserter assembly system 200 for folding a vehicle air-bag 202. The automated system 200 folds the air-bag 202 in a four stage process which forms a bubble fold 225. *Baker* at col. 13, lines 55-61. In the first stage and as illustrated in Figure 40, the inserter assembly 200 is positioned about a conventionally rolled air-bag 202. The inserter assembly 200 includes an outer blade 218 which is positioned adjacent to and rearward of the bag 202. The air-bag 202 has a rolled portion 210 that is coupled to a retainer 203 by a coupling portion 211. The retainer 203, which is for packaging the air-bag 202, is position forward of the air-bag 202. *Id.* at col. 14, lines 43-55.

During the second stage and as illustrated in Figures 41a-42b, the outer blade 218 is moved forward toward the retainer 203 so as to compress rolled portion 210 against a forward inner blade 217. *Id.* at col. 14, lines 56-67 and col. 15, lines 1-7.

In the third stage and as illustrated in Figures 42a, 42b, 43-44b, the bubble fold 225 is formed. Specifically, the outer blade 218 pushes the rolled portion 210 of the air-bag into the retainer 203. As the rolled portion 210 is pushed, it moves over the coupling portion 211, enlarging a fold left behind, thereby forming the bubble fold 225. A retainer cover 227 extends from the retainer 203 under the bubble fold 225. A fold plate 228 is positioned below the retainer cover 227 and pivots in a direction indicated by arrowed lines SS. *Id.* at Col. 15, lines 8-51.

During the fourth stage and as illustrated in Figures 45a-46, the fold plate 228 folds the open bubble fold 225 toward the retainer 203. As the fold plate 228 folds the bubble fold 225 upward, but prior to inserting the bubble fold into the retainer 203, the outer plate 218 is removed from the air-bag 202 in a direction indicated by arrowed lines TT. "The removal of the outer plate 218 permits the fold plate 228 to force the bubble fold 225 into retainer 203." When the fold plate 228 reaches the fully raised position as shown in Figure 46, the bubble fold 225 is then fully packaged into the retainer 203 with the retainer cover 227 in place, covering the opening of the retainer 203. *Id.* at col. 15, lines 53-66. Notably, the outer plate 218, which is used to deform the air-bag 202, is removed from the air-bag 202 prior to the retainer 203 and

cover 227 being positioned fully around the outer perimeter of the air-bag 202 which includes the bubble fold 225.

This is unlike Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 where the packaging is positioned fully around an outer perimeter of the deformed roll that includes the substantially "C" shape and then one of the member and the retainer element is removed from the deformed roll to retain the substantially "C" shape within the package. In that Baker lacks the noted element of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submits that the rejection based thereon should be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants believe claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-12 are in a condition for allowance.

Claim 13 has been added to the present amendment. This claim is supported in the specification and there is no new matter. Moreover, Applicants believe this claim is patentable for its own specific elements recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in a condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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